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COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0606

October 16, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
400 7th Street, SW, Room 1022
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Secretary Rice,

We hope that you will visit Taiwan this week to talk with President Chen about his government playing an expanded role in resolving the North Korean crisis. We would also ask that you consider a role for Taiwan in the six party talks.

As you may know, the State Department formed a high-level task force with Taiwan's National Security Council some time ago. It is our understanding that this task force worked to improve Taiwanese export control and enforcement systems and engaged in a variety of joint law enforcement activities focused on North Korea. For example, *The Associated Press* also reported that the Taiwanese seized 20 shipping containers of counterfeit cigarette wrappers destined for North Korea. According to officials, the seized materials could have been used to package cigarettes with a retail value of \$1 billion. A shipload of "precursor chemicals" for weapons was also seized in Taiwan before it could reach a North Korean port.

While China grudgingly allowed a package of nominal (and in some cases voluntary) sanctions against the North Koreans to move through the UN security council, China has stated very clearly that they will not conduct searches of cargo ships going to and from North Korea. News reports also indicate that language included in a draft resolution that would have denied North Korean planes and ships the right to land or dock in any UN member state's air or maritime facilities was dropped at the insistence of Beijing, as was a proposal to freeze North Korean assets.

The Chinese did reportedly support the resolutions ban on the export of "luxury goods" to North Korea – and while Beijing may tout this as one of the "tougher" components of the resolution, it seems unlikely that depriving Kim Jong-Il of mink coats, caviar and cognac will dissuade Pyongyang from its nuclear ambitions.

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Again, we hope you will stop in Taipei this week to talk with President Chen about enhanced U.S.-Taiwan cooperation on cargo inspections and enforcement of sanctions. In addition, we would ask that you consider a role for Taiwan in the ongoing six party negotiations, as the outcome of those negotiations is just as critical to Taiwan as it is the other six nations who are currently participating.

Despite the fact that Taiwan has been unfairly excluded from the UN, we believe they can contribute much to this effort and would be more than willing to help.

Thank you in advance for your assistance, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Tom Tancredo, M.C.


Dana Rohrabacher, M.C.

cc: The Hon. David Tawei Lee, Taiwanese Ambassador to the United States